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Application/Control No.: 09/977,884

Examiner: HOWELL, Daniel W.

IN THE SPECIFICATION**Kindly amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 2 to recite:**

The present invention relates to a drilling machine for drilling vertically arranged on-edge supported panels made of wood, plastics materials, aluminum or the like.

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 8 to recite:

With reference to the number references of the above mentioned figures, the drilling machine, for drilling panels in general, according to the present invention, and which has been generally indicated by the reference number 1, comprises conveyor means 2 designed for conveying a panel to be drilled 3 along a horizontal axis x, by intermittent or indexing displacements, so as to arrange said panel, in a very accurate and quick manner, at a tool bearing ~~rotary~~ turret 4.

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 18 to recite:

Said tool bearing ~~rotary~~ turret 4, in particular, is mounted on a supporting element 5 which can be vertically driven along vertical guides 6, formed on an upright 7, the displacement of said supporting element 5 being controlled by a ball recirculating screw system 8, ~~causing said~~ driving the turret 4 ~~to be~~ vertically driven.

Kindly replace the four (4) full paragraphs on page 6 with the following:

Said turret 4 comprises a ~~rotary~~ turret head or drum 4' ~~thereon are arranged small heads 9 including either individual or multiple spindles or mandrels, and designed for performing the several processing operations provided for the panel 3 which can be rotatively driven through a 360° revolution angle and thereon are arranged small heads 9, coupled to the turret head 4' through ball recirculating~~

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shoes (not specifically shown), each head 4' including either an individual or a multiple spindle for supporting processing the panel 3 as desired.

The full rotation (i.e. a revolution through said 360° revolution angle) of turret head 4' can be carried out in a very quick manner; in fact, each full revolution requires 1 second and 4/10. This quick rotary movement is driven by a brushless motor 5' and an epicycloidal reducer 5'' unit or assembly ~~and it is possible due to the fact that the small heads 9 are coupled to the rotary drum through ball recirculating shoes, fixed on said drum.~~

~~The guide wall axially sliding on the guide shoe is coupled to said small head.~~

As shown, the panel [[3]] is held in a vertical position and is supported by abutting the bottom edge 3' of said panel 3 on the convey or means 2, comprising an accurately fed conveyor track belt 10, and by abutting the top thereof by top horizontal guiding edge 3'' of said panel 3 against rotary roller means 11 comprising a plurality of substantially adjoining horizontal axis rotary rollers 20, having a vertical axis and a horizontal axis and which can be vertically driven along an axis y, being controlled by corresponding brushless motors which can be vertically driven along the axis y by a brushless motor 14 rack assembly.

Kindly replace the four (4) full paragraphs beginning at page 6, line 24 with the following:

While in figure 1 only ~~In the figures are shown only~~ the horizontal axis rollers 20 are shown, it should be apparent that the panel is further guided by vertical axis rollers 13 and 25, shown in figure 2.

~~A first driving motor 14 controls, with a perfect parallel relationship, the vertical displacement of the rollers 12 and 20 through opposite shafts, in turn driven by a motor reducing unit and coupled, at their two opposite end portions, to respective gears each of which meshes with a respective vertical rack 18 coupled to~~

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particular, top and middle rear abutment guide rollers 13, having vertical axis, are supported by a section member 21, to abut against the rear surface 3''' of panel 3, said supporting section member being driven along an axis z to fit the abutment rollers 13 to the thickness of the panel 3 being processed.

Abutment rollers 13, having a vertical axis, are supported by a section member 21 which can be driven along an axis z by kinematic assemblies similar to those which are hereinabove disclosed, so as to fit the positions of the abutment rollers 13, to the thickness of the panel 3 being processed. For the same purpose, moreover, a further bottom horizontal adjustable cross member 24 supports a plurality of bottom rear abutting guide rollers 25 for abutting against the bottom part of said panel rear surface 3'''.

To that end, moreover, a horizontal cross member 24 is provided at the bottom of the construction, which cross member supports a plurality of guide rollers 25 which can be adjusted, depending on the thickness of the panel 3, which thickness can change through the several regions of said panel. In this connection it should be apparent that the top guide rollers 13, intermediate guide rollers 13 and bottom guide rollers, for properly guiding the rear surface of the panel should have, and actually have, as shown in Figure 2, respective vertical axes.

Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 23 to recite:

The assembly, formed by two horizontal arms 26 supporting the roller 20 bearing section member 21, as is in turn supported by two rodless cylinders, held in the on columns 19, and which are pneumatically supplied (of which only one is shown) so as to compensate for the weight of the assembly, thereby allowing said assembly to be vertically driven with a high driving speed, for example up to 60 m per minute, in this embodiment by vertical driving means which could comprise, for example, rodless pneumatic cylinders, which could also be used for vertically driving said turret 4 and supporting element 5.

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Kindly amend the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 7 to recite:

~~That same pneumatic system for compensating for the assembly weight, is also used for the supporting element 5 of the turret 4, which turret can be accordingly vertically driven with a comparatively high driving speed.~~